

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

A Holiday Message from Governor Linda Lingle and Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.

Aloha! We would like to take this special occasion, on behalf of the State of Hawai'i, to wish all our residents and visitors a happy, safe and healthy holiday season.

The year that is rapidly drawing to a close was a time of tremendous challenge and opportunity for the Aloha State.

We had our share of challenges, including effects of the SARS crisis in Asia and Canada and terrorist threats around the world.

We saw families that didn't get enough to eat or didn't have a place to sleep.

We saw young lives tragically lost through car accidents and drug abuse.

But we also saw our economy strengthen and businesses prosper.

We saw citizens joining with elected leaders to help solve problems in their communities.

We saw Hawai`i reaching out to its Asia-Pacific neighbors to help make our region of the world more prosperous and secure.

We saw our men and women in uniform fighting for freedom in distant lands.

And we saw the courage of a 13-year-old surfer who lost an arm, but gained a nation of admirers.

We have much to be thankful for this year, and much to look forward to in 2004.

Hawai'i is a wonderful state enriched by many cultures and traditions. We are happy to say, the Aloha spirit is alive and well, as it has been for centuries.

We believe in our `ohana, which obviously means more than a family related by birth. It means a much more inclusive family joined by bonds of love, support and caring.

So from our 'ohana to yours, we wish you the very best during this joyous time of year.

Happy holidays to you all.

Mālama pono,

Governor Linda Lingle

Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.